

[6th February 1925]

Finance.*Malaria in Vriddhachalam, South Arcot district.*

* 167 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations were made to Government some years ago regarding the prevalence of malaria, in Kasba Vriddhachalam, South Arcot district, and requesting them to sanction a local allowance to the non-gazetted officers of that locality;

(b) whether it is a fact that about July 1923, the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras and the Director of Public Health reported to Government that the town of Vriddhachalam in South Arcot district was malarial;

(c) whether any order has been passed by the Government declaring it malarial; and if so, whether it will be placed on the table; and

(d) whether the Government propose to extend the scope of G.O. No. 778, Finance (*Fort St. George Gazette*, August 31, 1923), dealing with the allowances for non-gazetted officers stationed in the unhealthy tracts, to those in Vriddhachalam?

A.—(a) No such representation is traceable.

(b) A report to the effect that certain parts of Vriddhachalam were malarial was received in September 1921.

(c) A copy ^a of the order passed on reports received from the Surgeon-General, the Director of Public Health and the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is placed on the table.

(d) No.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“In the answers to clauses (b) and (c) or rather in the copy of the order on the subject appended to this question we find:

‘The present Assistant Surgeon tells me that at the present moment, i.e., since the rains began, there is not a single house in any part of the town which has not got at least one malaria patient. I find stagnant pools all over the town and between the backyards of every two rows of houses.’ ‘As regards the two rows of houses north of the temple, most of the houses are practically empty and it is admitted on all hands that it is not safe to sleep even for a single night in the well-built and well-maintained Nattukottai choultry in the street north of the temple.’

“In view of these observations and in view of the fact that it will take some time to start anti-malarial operations, and carry them through, may I ask if the hon. the Minister will not consider the advisability or the feasibility of extending the scope of the Government Order to these parts of Vriddhachalam in the interval pending the eradication of malaria from Vriddhachalam?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I may inform the hon. Member that the Government Order in question issued in the Finance Department. However, the question will be considered.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask whether the Government have any intention of starting anti-malarial operations all over the presidency?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“There is no proposal to that effect at the moment.”

^a Printed as Appendix I on pages 432-442 infra.